

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling the dispensing of at least one serving from a dispensing apparatus comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) entering identification information about a user;
- (b) putting a dispensing apparatus in a ready state based on said identification information;
- (c) entering first dispensing information about at least one serving;
- (d) storing said first dispensing information in a storage medium;
- 10 (e) linking said first dispensing information with destination information;
- (f) activating said readied dispensing apparatus based on said first dispensing information to put said dispensing apparatus in an activated state; and
- (g) dispensing said at least one serving from said activated dispensing apparatus based on said first dispensing information.

15 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of putting said activated dispensing apparatus in a stand-by state.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises the quantity of said at least one serving to be dispensed.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises the number of said at least one serving to be dispensed.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises the location of where said at least one serving is to be delivered to said user.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises an input of an amount of payment.

30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises said dispensing apparatus which will dispense said at least one serving.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing apparatus dispenses said at

least one serving into a container.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a bar code.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a magnetic strip.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information comprises a password.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein said identification information is part of said container.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises a bar code.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises a magnetic strip.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information comprises a password.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing information is part of said container.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of making entry into said warehouse database of said identification information said at least one serving dispensed.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of making entry into a warehouse database of said dispensing information of said at least one serving dispensed.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of making entry into a warehouse database of said destination information of said at least one serving dispensed.
- 5 20. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of comparing any two said entries recorded in said warehouse database.
- 10 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of entering destination information about said least at one serving, said destination information being linked to said user.
- 15 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said destination information consists of an amount of payment.
- 20 23. The method of claim 1, wherein said entering dispensing information step includes entering that said at least one serving is a refill serving, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:
- (h) repeating steps (a) and (b);
 - (i) entering second dispensing information about at least one serving, said second dispensing information including information about a refill serving;
 - (j) storing said second dispensing information in a storage medium;
 - (k) linking said second dispensing information with said destination information;
 - (l) activating said readied dispensing apparatus based on said second dispensing information to put said dispensing apparatus in an activated state; and
 - (m) dispensing said at least one serving from said activated dispensing apparatus based on said second dispensing information.
- 25 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of putting said activated dispensing apparatus in a stand-by state.
- 30 25. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of pressing an activation device to dispense said at least one serving after said dispensing apparatus is placed in said activated state.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of timing out the dispensing by disabling said activated dispensing apparatus and returning said activated dispensing apparatus to said readied state when said button is not pressed
5 within the allocated time period.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of disabling said activated dispensing apparatus and returning said activated dispensing apparatus to said readied state when said at least one serving is dispensed into said container in accordance with
10 said dispensing information.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein said dispensing apparatus comprises a multi-dispensing apparatus.

15 29. A method for producing a bill for a dispensing system comprising the steps of:
 (a) a waiter creating said bill by entering destination information into said dispensing system;
 (b) a server entering identification information, dispensing information and said destination information into said dispensing system;
20 (c) linking said dispensing information to said bill based on said destination information; and
 (d) producing said bill based on said dispensing information.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein step (a) is performed before step (b).

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31. The method of claim 29, wherein step (b) is performed before step (a)

32. The method of claim 29, wherein step (b) is repeated a plurality of times.

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33. The method of claim 29, wherein said bill is a split bill.

34. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of dispensing at least one serving from said dispensing system.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of dispensing said at least one serving is done by said server.

36. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of dispensing said at least one serving is done after step (c).

37. The method of claim 29, wherein said dispensing system determines that said at least one serving is a for pay serving.

10 38. The method of claim 29, wherein said dispensing system determines that said at least one serving is a refill serving.

15 39. The method of claim 29, wherein said dispensing system determines the ratio between said for pay serving and said refill serving over a period of time.

40. The method of claim 29, further comprising creating a bill based on the number of said at least one serving dispensed.

20 41. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of generating a dispensing activity report based on said bill being matched to said dispensed serving.

25 42. A dispensing apparatus control device, comprising:
a means for mounting said control device on a dispensing apparatus;
information entry means for entering identification and destination
information in said control device; and
a means for controlling the activation of said dispensing apparatus on which
said control device is mounted.

43. The control device of claim 42, wherein said control device includes
30 communication means for communicating via a connection to a storage medium.

44. The control device of claim 43, wherein said connection is a wireless connection.

45. The control device of claim 43, wherein said connection is a wired connection.

46. The control device of claim 42, wherein said means for controlling the activation is unlocked by entering said identification information on said information entry means.

47. The control device of claim 42, wherein said means for controlling the activation is unlocked by entering said destination information on said information entry means.

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48. The control device of claim 42, wherein said means for controlling the activation is a bio-sensing device.

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49. The control device of claim 48, wherein said bio-sensing device is a finger print sensing device.

50. The control device of claim 42, wherein said means for controlling the activation is a locking mechanism.

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51. The control device of claim 42, wherein said information entry means comprises a means for reading magnetic strips.

52. The control device of claim 42, wherein said information entry means comprises a touch screen.

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53. The control device of claim 42, wherein said information entry means comprises a keypad.

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54. The control device of claim 42, wherein said control device is mounted to a dispensing container.

55. The method of monitoring the dispensing of at least one serving from a dispensing container comprising the steps of:

(a) entering identification information about at least one user into the

dispenser;

- (b) entering destination information about said at least one serving;
- (c) dispensing said at least one serving from said dispensing container; and
- (d) determining that said at least one serving has been dispensed based on said dispensing container being tilted at least once.

56. The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of communicating to a computer communication information comprising said identification information, said dispensing information, said destination information and measurement information, 10 from step (d).

57. The method of claim 56, wherein said step of communicating is performed via a RF link.

15 58. The method of claim 56, wherein said step of communicating is performed via a touch sensor.

59. The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of comparing received 20 said communication information with register information comprising identification information, said dispensing information, and said destination information.

60. The method of claim 55, wherein said destination information is created by triangulating the location of said dispensing container.

25 61. The method of claim 55, wherein said destination information is created by said touch sensor at the location of where said at least one serving is dispensed.

62. The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of entering dispensing 30 information about said at least one serving.